NEW-ENGLAND FARMER.

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NEW ENGLAND FARMER.

PROPER TIME FOR CUTTING TIMBER.

To the Editor of the N. E. Farmer:

SIR—Upon reading the discordant views advanced by correspondents in your last paper, on the subject of cutting timber, it occurred to me that by inspecting the past volumes of the N. E. Farmer, I might find some facts—the results of carefully conducted experiments—tending to show which of the theories of your correspondents was probably correct. I accordingly set myself to the undertaking, and after searching through twenty volumes of the Farmer, the only result which attended my labor, was the conviction that the views of writers, and the results of experimenters on the subject, so far from tending to *settle* the question, served rather to involve it in a "glorious uncertainty." I found opinions and facts intended to show that February should be chosen for felling timber; others, favoring May, as the proper time; others, contending for June; others, for September; and some insisting that the *state of the moon* had more to do with the matter than anything else.

The belief for which I was desirous of finding support, was that held by "D." in your last—viz: that the best time for felling trees for timber is, when they contain the *least sap*, (and in the *least fluid* state)—and that this period is in *winter*.

Gen. Dearborn, advocating the opposite theory, says—"*Why* the timber is more durable when trees are cut down in the summer, than in winter, is a question in vegetable physiology which has not been explained, and may not be: *but the fact is beyond all doubt.*" Further on he observes, that "the season of the year when trees are to be felled, to render the wood most durable, is a fact *to be ascertained* by experiment." If the fact assumed, *is* a "fact beyond all doubt," then I cannot see how it remains "*to be ascertained* by experiment." But, waiving further comment on the seeming discrepance in the General's *postulata*, I will proceed to cite authorities upon the question in dispute, whose opinions, I suspect, are entitled to, at least, *as much* weight as those of Gen. D., (with which, unfortunately, they do not *fully* agree,) and, I think, to somewhat *more* weight than those which are based upon untenable theories, fortuitous results, and *lunar influences*.

In the article *Felling Timber*, in that eminently valuable work, *Brande's Encyclopædia of Science and Art*, I find the following remarks:

"Much has been written respecting the proper season for felling timber; some arguing in favor of midwinter, and others in favor of midsummer. The question principally turns upon the quantity and the value of the soft or outer wood in the trunk of the tree to be felled, known by foresters and carpenters as the sap-wood. As this sap or outer wood is the only portion of the trunk in which the sap or juices of the tree circulate, it is evident that if no value be set upon it, the tree may be cut down at any season; because the truly valuable part of the trunk—the mature timber—is impermeable to the sap in its ascent through the soft wood, and is, therefore, in the same state at every season of the year. On the other hand, where much value is attached to the soft or outer wood—where this outer wood is wished to be made as valuable as possible, or where, as in the case of comparatively young trees, the greater part of the trunk consists of sap-wood, felling ought to take place when *there is least sap in course of circulation.* This season is, without doubt, *midwinter*,—which, all other circumstances being equal, is unquestionably *the best season for felling timber;* the next best being midsummer, when the sap is chiefly confined to the young shoots, the circumference of the soft wood, and the bark. * * In general, all the soft woods, such as elm, lime, poplar, willow, &c., should be felled during winter: hard woods, like the oak, beech, ash, &c., when the trunks are of large size, and valued chiefly for their heart-wood, may be felled at any time."

When it is stated that the distinguished LOUDON was the author of the foregoing extract, the intelligent reader will duly appreciate the weight and regard to which the views are entitled. They are copied and endorsed by *Johnson*, in his "Farmers' Encyclopædia."

The *Encyclopædia Americana*, under the article *Timber*, has the following:

"It is agreed by most writers, that the sap of vegetables is the great cause of their fermentation and decay. Hence it appears desirable if there is any season in which the trunk of a tree is less charged with sap than at others, that this time should be selected for felling it. The middle of summer *and the middle of winter*, are undoubtedly the periods when the wood contains least sap. In midsummer, when the leaves are out, the sap is rapidly expended; and in winter, when the roots are dormant, it is sparingly produced, so that no surplus apparently exists."

The opinions given in this extract are founded upon the same scientific principles as those expressed in the one preceding it, and are, therefore, entitled to equal consideration—so far as they go.

That great and invaluable work, the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, under the article *Tree*, has the following:

"As the sap and moisture of timber is certainly the cause of its perishing much sooner than it otherwise would do, it seems evident that it should be felled *when there is the least sap in it*—viz: from the time *the leaves begin to fall, till the trees begin to bud.*"

How far the authorities above cited, go to *sustain* the position of Gen. Dearborn, that summer, *alone*, is the proper and best time for felling timber, the intelligent and unprejudiced reader can readily determine: for myself, I cannot see that, taken singly or together, they serve to render any very great support to the assumption of Gen. D., that it is a "*fact beyond all doubt*" that "timber is more durable when trees are cut down in the *summer* than in the *winter*." And I am inclined to think it a "fact beyond all doubt," that if there is any unsoundness in the views of the authorities I have cited, it is, still, safer and wiser to follow *their* counsel, as being men eminently qualified to teach, than to adopt the theories which have only the poor foundation of partial observations and accidental results—not to include *lunar influences*.

One extract more, and I will close. An intelligent writer in the "New York Farmer," (Jan. 1832) treating of the subject under notice, says:

"The time to cut wood of all kinds, either for timber or fuel, is when it will have the least liability to this destructive process—[acetous fermentation]—and that time will be found to be when there is not only the least sap in the wood, but when what there may be, is in its least degree of fluidity. This state of the sap occurs either when the new concentric ring of the year is about to be, or is just formed: or in the shortest days of winter. * * We do not seem sufficiently aware of the range of expansion and contraction of green and growing wood, or the extent of variation in bulk, expanded and contracted by heat and cold. When occupying *the least space*, [i. e. in winter,] the wood is, of course, most dense and compact, and it has then the least possible quantity of sap in it.

"More than *fifty years ago*, my father had occasion for a barn floor. In the depth of winter, as the only alternative, he cut down large red oak trees, had them sawed into 2 1-2 inch plank, and laid his floor, perfectly green, expecting to lay them over again when they got seasoned and shrunk, as he supposed they would do. This was all done in the severest cold of a northern winter, and *that floor has never yet been overhauled, nor have the planks ever opened a seam.* * * I could cite multitudes of similar facts."

This extract embodies what I conceive to be sound theory, supported by an important fact,—a fact, I think, quite as important as the *whole* of those adduced by Mr Ilsley, in his letter to Gen. Dearborn.

But, Mr Editor, I fear I am monopolizing too much of your space, and will only add, as pertinent to the *manner* in which this question of timber cutting has been treated by many writers, and especially by *some*, the truthful sentiment of RUSH, that we may build facts upon facts, and theories upon theories, until the pile reaches the heavens; but unless cemented by *principles*, they will tumble to pieces. Respectfully, yours,

X. Y. Z.

☞We can contribute one fact bearing on the question treated of in the foregoing. At one period of our life we were engaged in the business of chaise and carriage making. Being, on one occasion, in want of bass wood, and learning that a man in the vicinity had a fine bass growing on his premises, we applied to him for it, and by giving an extra price, we obtained it. It was felled in June. In sawing it into boards, the sap flowed very freely. In about a week after, the boards were so warped and cracked, that they were totally worthless for the purpose for which we wanted them. This result taught us a lesson of caution, which we never forgot, and which was of advantage to us in our business.—ED.

PLYMOUTH CO. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

To the Committee on Improvements:

Gentlemen—The land selected by me to "prove the influence of subsoil plowing on the corn crop," is a sandy loam, with a hard gravelly subsoil, which until within the last twenty years, had for a long series of years been constantly cultivated with grain crops, till it protested further drafts. Since that time it has been in a measure restored, by dressings of mud composts and grass crops: it was laid down to grass in 1839.

One acre was measured, and an equal division made. Each half acre received fifteen loads of barn manure, which was spread on the sward, and plowed under the first week in May. The whole was then rolled and harrowed, and on the 9th of May, the whole was planted with Buckminster's corn planter, as near three feet one way and two feet the other, as possible; after weeding, we thinned out the corn, leaving three plants in each hill, where there were so many, but there were a considerable number of missing hills which we attempted to supply by transplanting, but owing to the drought, did not succeed very well.

The corn on the subsoiled part gave evidence of superior luxuriance soon after weeding, and notwithstanding the sufficiency of moisture that succeeded the early drought, it maintained this superiority throughout the season, and was at once recognized by every visitor. And although the result after harvesting and weighing, was not so favorable to the part subsoiled as I had anticipated, yet I feel perfectly satisfied, after making due allowance for the depredations of "birds, *beasts and reptiles.*" The soil was not quite so good as the part not subsoiled; was harvested and weighed about a week sooner than the other part, and consequently weighed heavier, and was not exposed to depredations so much nor so long. The result was as follows:

On the half acre subsoiled, we had 25 72-75 bushels of corn, and on the half acre not subsoiled, we had 23 21-75 bushels.

The corn was sounder and better on the part subsoiled—less pig corn by one-third, and I believe had it not suffered from the depredations named, there would have been six bushels more at least on the lot. HORACE COLLAMORE.

Pembroke, Oct. 31, 1845.

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To the Committee on Produce:

Gentlemen—The following is a statement of a corn crop raised by the subscriber in East Bridgewater, the present year. The land on which the corn was raised, was in a good state of cultivation. One half acre was planted with potatoes in 1844, and gave a large crop; the other half acre was mowed, and gave about ten or twelve hundred of hay—both pieces together making one acre of land, of nearly an equal quality. The whole was plowed in May, 1845, eight inches deep; then I spread on 3 1-2 cords of good stable manure; after the manure was plowed in, I furrowed it one way, making the furrows 3 feet apart; then I put in the furrows two cords of the same kind of manure as before described, on which I planted 14 quarts of the large smutty white corn—dropped 3 and 4 kernels together, about 20 inches apart, and covered with a hoe, leaving the land level as before planted. The planting was done 13th to 15th of May—first hoeing 10th of June—second hoeing about the 20th—it being free from weeds, I did not hoe it again. About the middle of September, I topped the stalks and housed them. Probably I should not have topped the stalks if they had stood up well as they commonly do.

Expense of the Corn Crop.

Plowing,	$2 75	
5 1-2 cords manure,	22 00	
Hauling on and plowing,	4 50	
Planting, &c.	4 75	
Seed corn,	42	
Hoeing first time,	2 75	
" second time,	2 00	
Killing weeds,	75	
Topping stalks,	2 00	
Harvesting, estimated	8 00	
		$49 92

Value of Crop.

118 30-75 bushels,	$76 65	
Topped stalks,	10 00	
Butts,	8 00	
		$94 65
		49 92
		$44 73

Respectfully submitted,
LEONARD HILL.

E. Bridgewater, Oct. 14, 1845.

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Josiah Whitman's Statement.

The land, except an eighth of an acre of the same, was mowed in July, 1844: cut about one ton of hay to the acre. In November, 1844, I plowed it eight inches deep. April 28th, 1845, drew on 6 cords of compost manure, made from the droppings of the cattle while housed the last winter, and soil—(not so well made as it should have been.) Spread the same and plowed it in with a horse; broke but very few of the sods. May 17th, drew on two cords of the same kind of compost manure, and dropped the same in the drills, which were 3 feet 6 inches apart, and planted it 9 inches the other way. It took half a bushel of seed corn. The seed was the smutty white, or what now goes by the name of the Whitman corn, saved from my last year's growth, by picking out the best ears when I husked my corn, and hanging up the same by the husks. June 11th, cultivated it out twice in a row, and hoed the same, leaving two stalks in a hill. 24th do., raised the ground a trifle around the corn. In September, cut a few of the stalks, left the rest on until harvested.

Statement of the Expense on said Acre of Corn.

Plowing,	$3 00	
8 cords compost manure,	24 00	
Carting and spreading manure, and plowing in the same,	6 00	
Planting corn,	6 00	
Seed,	50	
Hoeing twice,	6 50	
Harvesting, securing corn and husks,	9 00	
		$55 00

The returns or credit for the crop.

103 bushels of corn at 60 cts.	$61 80	
Corn fodder,	12 00	
		$73 80
		55 00
Profit,		$18 80

I allow that the manure is not all spent, and suppose the goodness left is sufficient to pay for the use of the land. JOSIAH WHITMAN.

E. Bridgewater, Oct. 10, 1845.

OFFICERS

Of the Plymouth Co. Agricultural Society, Elected October 15, 1845.

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William Bourne, } *Vice Presidents.*
Anthony Collamore, }
Jesse Perkins, *Recording Secretary.*
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COMPARATIVE VALUE OF POTATO AND CORN CROPS.

It may be interesting to some, to repeat a little fireside chat, illustrative of the comparative value of the product of potatoes and corn. Having called the other day on one of my neighbors, in the course of conversation, he observed, "I can get more in raising potatoes than corn." "Are you sure of that?" "O yes." "How did you get your information? If you did not get it by figures, I think if you will take your slate, figures will satisfy you to the contrary. Will you state what quantity of potatoes an acre of common ground, tolerably prepared, will produce?" "150 bushels." "Very well: what is a common price?" "25 cents per bushel." "Then carry out $37 50

The labor goes one against the other, except $3 extra, for hauling to market, on the potatoes,	$3 00	
Five dollars extra exhausted by this crop in the coming crops of grain, grass, &c." "Agreed."	5 00	
"12 bush. of seed, at 25 cts. is	3 00	
		$11 00
So the net product to the acre was		$26 50
It was agreed that the same prepared acre would produce 30 bush. of corn, and as both crops were pretty high, one would correspond with the other—30 bushels at $1,	$30 00	
We give credit for the fodder, tops and butts,	8 00	
		$38 00

This was the result of my neighbor's own figuring, and he confessed his mistake. It goes to show one of the many mistakes people too frequently labor under, in neglecting to make a close calculation. A. ROBINSON.

—*Portsmouth Journal.*

☞The farmer who does not get better average crops than 30 bushels of corn and 150 of potatoes to the acre, is either deserving of commiseration for the quality of his soil, or of censure for his management in farming. Neither of the above

products can be called a *paying* crop, if, (as the writer assumes,) the land is even "tolerably prepared," and the crop "tolerably" tended. No farmer should be satisfied with much less than *double* the amount of products named in the above—and, before he says he *can't* get so much from his land, let him ask himself if he has ever *tried* to do it, by employing to this end *all* the means within his power. And we have little hesitation in saying, that, if by dressing his land *as well as he can*, and cultivating his crops *as well as he knows how*, he is not rewarded by better returns than those stated in the foregoing article, he had better "pull up stakes," and locate himself in some other "diggins" where he can realize better reward for his toil.—*N. E. Far.*

From the London Gardener's Chronicle.

DO THE RACES OF PLANTS WEAR OUT?

BY PROF. LINDLEY.

Is it true that when a tree or other perennial plant becomes unhealthy from old age all the offspring previously obtained from it by cuttings in all parts of the world become unhealthy too? Is such a doctrine a reasonable inference from known facts? or is it forced upon us by evidence although not deducible from mere reason? This is an important question to a labored advocacy of which pamphlets and newspapers have been lately abundantly brought into requisition. We have ourselves adverted to it incidentally, and on the present occasion propose to consider it in its various aspects.

1. No one pretends that the species of plants disappear. It is alleged on the contrary, that seeds renew the languid vigor of a species as often as they are sown; and that if an unhealthy plant is multiplied from seeds the immediate offspring becomes healthy. It is also said that multiplication by seed is the only natural mode of propagation known among plants, and that all other kinds of increase are artificial and lead to debility.

It would, we think, be difficult to find an hypothesis more entirely at variance with notorious facts. That propagation by seed is a natural method of multiplication is doubtless true; but to say that no other natural means exist is absurd. The Sugar-cane is rarely propagated by seeds; its natural mode of propagation is by the stem, which when blown down by the storm emits roots at every joint. Of this natural property man has availed himself as a means of artificially extending the plant. The Tiger Lily naturally propagates itself by bulbs, formed in the bosom of its leaves; we never saw it form a seed. The Jerusalem Artichoke naturally multiplies itself by its tubers, which are bodies of the same nature as the so-called root of a Potato; no one ever saw it produce seed in this country. Every gardener knows that his Achimenes are principally multiplied by little scaly bodies resembling tubers, and that these are formed in such abundance as to render seed unnecessary. In short we have not space for other instances of this, the denial of which could only arise from an entire unacquaintance with common facts. These examples sufficiently show that Nature does provide other means of propagating plants than seeds, and that tubers are one of those means.

As to the assertion that all other means than multiplication by seeds lead to debility, we must ask for the proof. The wild Strawberry has been more propagated by its runners than by its seeds; and where do we find any sign of debility there? The Jerusalem Artichoke was introduced before the year 1617; for nearly two centuries and a half it has increased itself entirely by tubers, and never by seed. Does any one find debility in that plant? Couch Grass increases chiefly by its creeping roots; we wish we could adduce, at least, that one instance of failing vigor in a plant whose seeds are but little yielded. It, therefore, is not true that plants multiplied much, or wholly, by other means than seeds become on that account unhealthy.

Seeds, however, are said, in all instances, to produce healthy plants. But this, like the previous assertions, will not bear exact investigation. The health of a seedling depends entirely upon that of the seed. Under no circumstances will unhealthy seeds yield vigorous offspring; this is proved every day by what comes from grain debilitated by age. And there cannot be found a gardener, of any large experience, who does not know that seedlings will exhibit every diversity of constitution from health to decrepitude. Of the latter, MYATT's Pine Strawberry is a modern and striking instance.

We, therefore, regard the whole string of propositions now examined as entirely destitute of all foundation in fact.

2. What are called the varieties of plants are said to wear out. It is maintained that vegetable, like animal life, has its fixed periods of duration, and that there is a time beyond which the debility incident to old age cannot be warded off. The inference from this is, that all the cultivated races of plants require to be incessantly renewed by seed, in the absence of which precaution they gradually become unhealthy, and unfit for cultivation.

The first person who proposed this theory was the late Mr. KNIGHT, who, in the latter part of the last century, finding that the orchards of Herefordshire no longer contained healthy trees of certain varieties of Apple, which were said to have flourished 50 years before, and failing in his attempt to restore health to such varieties by grafting, assumed that old age had overtaken them, and that they were incurable. Thence he extended the theory to all other plants: and here and there writers on vegetable physiology, rather out of respect to Mr. KNIGHT's great name than from any correct examination of the facts for themselves, have blindly adopted his views. But reason and evidence are alike opposed to the conclusion, which seemed to have sprung out of a mistaken application of the laws of animal life to that of vegetables, and a desire to push analogy beyond its proper limits.

All who understand the nature of plants, and the manner in which they grow, and have witnessed that incessant renewal of their vitality with which Providence has so wonderfully endowed them, would hesitate to adopt Mr. KNIGHT's views except in the presence of facts capable of no other possible interpretation. No physiologist can separate the nature of what gardeners call varieties (of course mules are not here included,) from that of a wild race. In their intrinsic qualities they are the same. It can make no difference in the nature of a plant whether it is sown by a gardener or by winds, birds, animals, or other agents. The oak which springs up in a forest is not in the smallest physiological particular different from that which rises from the bed of a nurseryman. The Cabbages which load the waggons of a market gardener are in their essence the same as those which sprout forth from the sea-beaten cliffs of the ocean. They may be greener, or redder, more succulent and larger; but they are physiologically the same. We therefore must dismiss from our argument the word variety, which only leads to a confusion of ideas. Now, with perennial plants, whether woody or herbaceous, whether forming a trunk or a mere permanent root, have never yet been shown by any trustworthy evidence to be subject to decrepitude, arising from old age. On the contrary, every new annual growth is an absolute renewal of their vitality, in the absence of disturbing causes: Hence the enormous age at which trees arrive. A thousand years is still youth to a forest tree which no accident has injured: and there is no intelligible reason why they should not grow to eternity. It is very true that plants do in reality perish commonly without attaining any such longevity; and that constitutional feebleness is notoriously one of the accompaniments of advancing age. But this arises from external, not intrinsic, causes. The soil which surrounds them is exhausted, their roots wander into uncongenial land, water in unnatural excess is introduced, the food they require is withheld, violence rends them, men mutilate them, severe cold disorganizes them, and these and other causes produce *disease*, which may end in death. But this is very different from dying of *mere old age*; and for practical purposes, it is most material to draw the distinction.

If no evidence exist to show that *wild* plants suffer from mere old age, we cannot admit such a property to be incident to those which are cultivated. It would indeed be a waste of space to dwell further upon this part of the argument.

What are called facts, the real value of which we shall presently discuss, have been adduced to prove that if plants do not die of old age in a wild state, yet that they incontestably do wear out when artificially multiplied by division. In opposition to this it is sufficient to quote the White Beurre Pears of France, which French writers assure us have been thus propagated from time immemorial, and which exhibit no trace of debility; or the Jerusalem Artichoke, already named; or the cultivated Vines, of which the very varieties known to the Romans, have been transmitted by perpetual division, but without deterioration or decrepitude, to our own day.

(To be continued.)

Potatoes.—I observe that much is written in the papers on the subject of potatoes, and in almost all places there are complaints of their rotting. With permission, I will make a few brief remarks of my own experience in the matter. I usually raise enough for my own consumption, and they are usually good. This year they are as good as common, and I think a little better. In the next field to mine, separated only by a fence, they were nearly all rotten.

I planted with common barn manure, and took no particular care about them, except that I used the proportion of four barrels of unslacked lime to the acre. The largest are ten inches, and they will average six inches in circumference—perfectly sound and sweet. ALONZO LEWIS.

Lynn, Jan. 26. [*Boston Mail.*

Elecampane Root.—Mr De Groat, the best cattle and horse doctor we have in these parts, strongly recommends giving elecampane root to both horses and cattle in the latter part of winter and early in spring.—*N. Y. Far.*

For the New England Farmer.

THE OAKS COW.

Mr Breck—I observed an article in No. 14, vol. v. of the "Massachusetts Ploughman," headed "The Oaks Cow." It contains some remarks said to have been "delivered by the Hon. Zadock Pratt, at an agricultural meeting held at Catskill, N. Y., where (says the editor of the Ploughman,) the Hon. orator named this cow to show what improvement might be made by good feeding. He reminds us that the Oaks cow, on ordinary keep, made but 180 lbs. of butter in a year. The next year she had 12 bushels of corn meal, and then gave 300 lbs. of butter. The next year, she had 35 bushels, and gave more than 400 lbs. The next year she had one bushel a week, and from April the 5th to Sept. 25th, she gave 484 lbs. and suckled her calf 5 weeks. This is held up as an example to show farmers what may be effected by 'good keep.' The orator did not probably know the consequence of such 'high keep,' or he would have told his hearers the whole story. This same Oaks cow was ruined for dairy purposes by this high living. She waxed fat, but her milk diminished, and though great efforts were made, she never afterwards yielded so much milk or butter as an ordinary cow. The whole story should be told when farmers are urged to imitate the example of theorists."

I agree with the editor of the Ploughman that "the whole story should be told, when farmers are urged to imitate the example of theorists," or *practicalists*—as the one is oftentimes as erronous as the other, although the former has often to bear the blame which rightfully belongs to the latter. But the mode of story-telling which the editor of the Ploughman finds fault with, is, unfortunately, not confined to the meridian of Catskill: it prevails in other places, and is also adopted by other persons than Mr Pratt. It is a practice but too common, both with orators and editors. They appear to suppose that their hearers and readers know no more about the subject under discussion, than what they tell them, and they just tell them as much as will suit their purpose at the time. I hope the editor of the Ploughman will remember his own good advice long enough to prevent him from falling into the same error.

If Mr Pratt's object was to show what improvement might be made by good feeding, he certainly made a good argument of the Oaks cow in favor of his position. And if Mr Pratt's statements were facts, they could not be called theory, as the results were known. If the theory was advanced that high keep with meal would increase the quantity of butter, it was certainly borne out in practice in the case of the Oaks cow. I am not prepared to say that high keep (so far as quantity or quality is concerned,) ruined the cow, but I think it is highly probable that the *manner* in which such kind of food was given to her, had the effect which the editor states.

It is but too common a practice to give cows meal in a *dry* state, and without being mixed with a more bulky and a more easily digested article of food. The consequence is, that meal, being a highly concentrated food, occupies but a small space in the stomach, which requires to be *filled* in order to produce a healthy digestion; and as meal is a highly nutritive article of food, the animal is thereby not induced to supply itself with a less nutritious, although a necessary article of aliment, for the purpose of promoting proper digestion.

Cows which are highly fed upon meal, or any concentrated and highly nutritious food, will generally be light in the abdomen; and such shaped cows, whether it is their natural shape, or caused by the means I have stated above, may give rich milk, but will not give a great quantity; and the reason is obvious. The kind of food which has the greatest tendency to produce a large quantity of milk, is of a bulky nature; it therefore follows that a cow which is a great milker, must be deep in the abdomen, in order to contain a large quantity of such kind of food. But the kind of food which has the greatest tendency to produce rich milk and put on fat, is of a highly concentrated nature, and of course requires less space, and an animal which is light in the abdomen, is better adapted for the latter than the former kind of feeding.

It is highly probable that if the meal given to the Oaks cow had been mixed with cut hay, or straw, or roots, or grain chaff, and such like articles, and if these articles had been cooked by boiling or steaming, that she would have retained her dairy qualities much longer, and if the quantity of meal had been reduced one-half, and roots supplied in its place, she might have retained her dairy qualities longer still. But if the "whole story was told," (and it would be very useful to know it,) it might possibly be found that it was more owing to the injudicious manner in which the meal was fed to the cow, than the *quantity* that ruined her, (if injured at all by it.) Do cows that are fed according to the "usual course" never fail in their dairy products? If they do, then it is not strange that the Oaks cow did so. But if they do not, then it is certainly an excellent course for keeping them in an equal state of production. But whether it is the "most profitable," is another question.

It is a fact well known amongst dairy farmers, that cows often do not produce as well one season as another, and that age affects both the quantity and quality of their milk, and that an old cow is more expensive to keep in good condition through the winter than a young one, all other things being equal. It is another well known fact, that high fed cows (when judiciously fed) either for the dairy or shambles, (where a good market can be found for the produce,) are more profitable than low fed ones.

The editor goes on to say: "Now this same article that we find in the Farmers' Cabinet, will be more extensively copied into other papers, than the most important improvement in agriculture, because many readers delight in great stories, and many publishers are totally ignorant of the subject. They suppose the largest products the most profitable, and they are ignorant of the consequences of a departure from the usual course of husbandry."

I should consider it a "most important improvement in agriculture," if a cow which gave 180 lbs. of butter in a year, when fed according to "the usual course;" was, by giving her 72 bushels of meal extra, made to produce 1184 lbs. in less than 2 years and 6 months, the last 24 or 5 weeks of which time she gave 484 lbs. and suckled her calf, which (besides suckling the calf,) was 304 lbs. more than she gave the first year. Now, according to the statement given, all things continuing the same, it would have required 6 1-2 years to have produced the above amount of butter. Now, the question arises whether it would have been "most profitable" to have kept her 4 years extra, or to have given her 72 bushels of meal extra?

I agree with the editor, that many readers delight in great stories, but if the stories are true, and if the readers try to imitate what the stories teach, and be successful, then it may prove advantageous both to themselves and others; but if the stories are false, then it will be injurious to do so. There are, certainly, publishers who try to make both readers and hearers believe that a new error is better than an old truth; but unfortunately, there are also publishers who try to make their readers believe that an old error is better than a new truth. They urge their readers to stop where they are, and not move a step farther, but go just as they lead them, for there is a lion in the way. And it would perhaps be difficult to determine which of the two characters is most injurious to the public.

It is true that "the largest product" is not always "the most profitable," but there is no proof that they are not sometimes so. *Large products with profit*, should be the farmer's motto. He should never be discouraged from putting into practice what is implied in that little word of three letters—TRY; but his trials should be made on reasonable calculations, and not at random.

That there are "many publishers," and farmers, also, who "are ignorant of the consequences of a departure from the usual course of husbandry," is a fact too well known to be denied: but this is no reason why departures should not be made, if made with a reasonable prospect of success. There can be but little doubt that if a departure had not been made from the usual course, the course which the editor alludes to, whatever it is, would never have been heard of, as we can scarcely suppose that it was the original course in past ages.

If "the usual course" is the best that can be adopted, then it would be injudicious to change it; but if it is not the best, then I should think that a person who had departed from it with a reasonable hope of succeeding better by adopting another course, should not be held up to ridicule, even when he may not succeed. It is bad enough to receive the ridicule of the unlearned and inexperienced, but it is heart-rending to receive that of the learned and long experienced. But there are a class of people who are ever ready to find fault with every thing that is a departure from "the usual course," forgetting, at the same time, that what may be the "usual course" in *their* day, may have been the thousandth improvement on a former course—and most probably, if the original course had been coexistent with themselves, they would have approved it (just because it was the "good old way") as much as they do the improvement on it.

It was "a departure from the usual course," that has quadrupled the products of Great Britain. And it is the opinion of many good judges, that a departure from the present course would still further increase them. I heard Professsor Johnston state at a public meeting of farmers, held in Glasgow, in May, 1844, that the district through which the railway passes from that city to Edinburgh, and over which he had passed the day previous, could, by a different course of cultivation, be made to produce three or four times the amount it does at present.

It was "a departure from the usual course" of *feeding* and breeding, that has produced such a great improvement in the different breeds of cattle in Britain—which has raised their value several hundred fold, besides improving their appearance, which is certainly worth something for the gratification of the taste.

It was "a departure from the usual course," that brought the New Leicester breed of sheep to their present state of improvement, and they have also been the means of improving many other breeds.

But there were in Mr Bakewell's time, as there are at the present day, viz: many friends of the "good old way." We are informed by good authority, that "His whole scheme of improvement was ridiculed and opposed, and most of all by those who lived in his immediate neighborhood. In fact, he shared the common fate of those whom posterity hail as the best friends of their country. His plan was so novel that he had great difficulty in inducing the farmers to act upon it, and the first sheep he let, was let for sixteen shillings. Since then, a sheep has been let for the season at a thousand guineas, and many others for prices approaching that sum. In 1789, he made 1200 guineas by letting three rams, and 2000 guineas by seven others. He likewise received 3000 guineas from the Dishley Society, for the use of the rest of his stock. In one season, he received 800 guineas for two-thirds of the use of his favorite ram 'Two Pounder,' from two breeders (400 each)—still reserving one-third of the usual number of ewes for himself." Mr Bakewell had to struggle for 20 years against the ignorance and prejudice of his brethren before he got a remunerating price for his rams, but he triumphed at last.

Collins, the celebrated improver of the Short Horns, received a similar treatment, but also came off triumphant, and, like Bakewell, made those who laughed at him pay well for their "whistle."

It requires great talent to go *before* the world, and show it the way; but it requires little or no talent to come up *after* it, and point out the mistakes that have been committed during the improvement that has been made.

Yours, respectfully,

ALEX'R BICKETT.

RESOURCES OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In industry and frugality, no State in the Union stands before old Massachusetts. The perfectly systematic manner in which business is there carried on, the division of labor which prevails in all branches of manufacturing industry, and the thousand little "notions" which are annually produced, swell the product of her industry to an almost incredible amount. By returns from the assessors of the several cities and towns in that State, made to the Secretary of the Commonwealth during the past year, it appears that the agricultural products of the State for the year, were estimated at $23,000,000; the whale, cod, and mackerel fisheries at $11,900,000; and the manufacturing products at $90,000,000—making a grand total of one hundred and twentyfour millions, seven hundred and thirtyfive thousand, two hundred and sixtyfour dollars.

In the ninety millions of manufacturing products, are included the ships built during the year.

Massachusetts, however, is not only a great producing, but a great consuming State. We have seen an estimate of the articles produced in other States and consumed in that State, amounting to some $42,000,000; showing the importance of that Commonwealth as a market, as well as a producing State. Such industry not only augments the wealth of the State but increases the resources of the nation.—*National Intelligencer.*

Plow in the Garden.—I know that gardeners generally have a prejudice against the plow in the garden, and till within a few years I was one of the number—but five years' experience with the plow, has convinced me that it is the easiest, most expeditious, and quite as effectual, as the spade.—*Corr. Far. Cab.*

PLYMOUTH CO. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

To the Committee on Improvements.

GENTLEMEN:—Early on my acquaintance with soils in the county of Plymouth, I supposed the general interest demanded the conversion of a large portion of our light and exhausted soils into forests. The reclaimation of them into profitable cultivated fields could not be effected without a greatly increased population. By converting them into forests, the condition of them is improved for purposes of culture, if the wants of society should ever require them for such use.

In 1807, I purchased a piece of the Indian fields, so called, exhausted so much that it produced very little of herbage; it was plowed and sprouts from locusts trees transplanted into it. This experiment was attended with satisfactory success. The young locusts grew finely and gradually improved the soil. The field, for a number of years, has afforded very decent pasturage and the trees have been in cutting for timber.

In 1819 a tract of land was purchased, on which there were several exhausted fields: some of them have been seeded from the neighboring forest, and some have been sown with different kinds of seed, and with various success. Since 1819, exhausted fields have been purchased to considerable extent, with a view to their conversion into forests. But the contemplated course has been to some extent obstructed by the necessity of fencing the fields. Four or five acres of common land were sown in 1828 with white pine seed, in furrows cut about eight feet apart: the seed vegetated well, but sheep destroyed all the plants the first season. This failure induced the adoption of another plan. The field intended to be sown with forest seed, was fenced and plowed, rye and forest seed sown the same fall, and the fence kept up till the danger of injury to the trees from the browsing of cattle had passed. The lots on which premium is claimed have generally been managed in this manner:—Lot No. 1, on the plans accompanying this statement, was plowed and sown in 1835, the forest seed did not vegetate as was expected, and in the fall of 1836 more forest seed was cast on, after which there seemed to be a sufficient number of young trees, though very irregular in distance, which may be no great evil in a forest. This lot was protected by the fence till the fall of 1839, when it was removed to enclose lot No. 3, which has been managed in similar manner, excepting a few locust trees have been transplanted on the border of it, and some chesnuts were planted in 1840, which give promise of only a very slow growth, the soil probably is not suitable for them.

Lot No. 2 was not sown with any kind of forest seed, but little white birches were transplanted into it in 1841—42. These will not be likely to grow quite as shapely and well as they ordinarily do from the seed, but the soil was so poor it was doubted whether seed would get any hold there.

Lot No. 4 was plowed in 1833 and planted with locust seed; the seeds came up generally, the plants were cultivated a little one or two years, and appeared promising, but, ere long the worm began to annoy them and has continued its depredations ever since. The only hope of much success with the locust is that the worms may presently cease their ravages; and where the land is filled with roots, sprouts may spring up and grow rapidly. After it was perceived that the locusts were not likely to flourish, some other seeds were planted on the lot, and some young trees transplanted into it. On the most barren lots there has been a solicitude to see something growing, and any kind of tree has been transplanted which it was thought might live.

With something more of labor and expense, a degree of regularity in the distances of the trees might have been produced, but it was the purpose to effect a valuable object in so cheap a manner, that the attention of all farmers possessed of sterile fields might be directed to it. Were cattle entirely excluded from our commons, extensive tracts, now useless, might in twenty years be covered with a thick growth of white birch ripe for the axe; or in thirty years with a growth of white pine, some of which would be large enough for ranging timber, and all this merely for the labor of gathering the seed and scattering on the land.

The seed of birch can be easily gathered any time from the 20th of October till the winter. And in many situstigns this will be found the most profitable wood for fuel and some other purposes, that can be cultivated.

The seed of white pine must be gathered very soon after the first autumnal frosts. When it is wanted in large quantities, the most expeditous method of obtaining it would be to cut down large trees, each of which would yield an abundance of seed. The cones of the pitch pine often grow so near the ground they can be easily reached; these do not so readily open as those of the white pine and therefore it is less important for us to be very exact in the time of gathering.

The pines and birch which seem best adapted to soils that are likely to be used as forests in this county, are produced with so little expense of labor, we may be permitted to wonder that something of earlier attention was not given to the subject. Cheap and plenty as wood and timber have been in our country, a growth of any kind of wood in the last half century was greatly preferable to a state of barrenness.

In one of the lots above described, acorns have been planted, and notwithstanding the poverty of the soil, the trees promise ultimately to amount to something; those which have been cut down in the spring after they were three or four years old, have sent out shoots which are straighter and something more thrifty than the original shoots from the acorns.

If forests of the several kinds of oak are raised, it will be advisable to plant the acorns in regular rows, and plow and hoe among the young trees for several years, as we do in fields of Indian corn. The accelerated growth of the trees will amply pay somebody, if not the performer, for the labor. The white oak, in particular, as it ordinarily stands in the forest, is slow in growth, but cultivation will bring it to maturity in about half a century.

There seems to be but a single reason why there should not be more attention given to the extension of our forests, and that is one taking its origin in the Yankee notion, that prompt payment must be realized for whatever we do.

Respectfully submitted,

MORRILL ALLEN.

Pembroke, Sept. 1845.

Wheat Enemies at the West.—Besides the Hessian fly, they have at the West a *chap* called the *chinch bug*, which burrows at the roots of the wheat and destroys the crop. A writer in the Prairie Farmer states that he had to quit harvesting his corn, on account of the multitude of them on the stalks, which emitted an odor "like the double distilled essence of bed-bugs."—*Maine Far.*

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,
AND HORTICULTURAL REGISTER.

Edited by Joseph Breck.

Boston, Wednesday, Feb. 4, 1846.

THIRD AGRICULTURAL MEETING AT THE STATE HOUSE.

Subject for discussion—The Cultivation of Grasses.

Hon. John C. Gray, of Boston, commenced the discussion. He remarked that the grass crop of Massachusetts was one of great importance, and of more consequence than all the other products of the soil, if pasturage was included. His experience was limited, because the soil on his farm consisted of little variation being for the most part a stiff, hard, clayey soil. That part of Cambridge in which his farm is situated could not be considered of the best quality, but in West Cambridge, some of the land was excellent, and possessed great natural advantages, and it was due to the intelligent farmers there to say, that these advantages were well improved. His own experience was confined to the cultivation of herdsgrass and redtop. The former had been a favorite with most farmers for a long time past, and was still much cultivated in this vicinity, and with good reason, though some writers speak of it with contempt. It was a valuable grass, because, on much of our land, it produced a heavier crop than any other grass: he was accustomed to cut nearly three tons to the acre, on moist, flat land. The redtop he also considered an excellent grass.

As to the time of sowing grass seed, he preferred to sow it alone at the close of summer, rather than in the spring with grain. He had but little experience in raising clover, as he did not consider it of much value when made into hay.

In relation to curing hay, he had adopted a course not commonly practiced in this country: that was in covering his hay while in the tumble at night, or in case of rain. He used for this purpose old sail cloth, or canvass, cut into pieces three yards square, giving them a good coating of tar. It cost him 15 to 18 cents per yard, and 100 yards was sufficient to cover the crop of an acre and a half, and would last, perhaps, a life-time. He considered this good economy; for in case of a long storm, hay would oftentimes be damaged at the rate of 4 or $5 per ton. Covering was also particularly useful for the second crop, which was cut late in the season, when the nights were long and damp, and generally very difficult to cure hay in a proper manner.

Whether lands should be top-dressed or not, depended, he thought, upon the nature of the soil. He had tried guano, but had not received much benefit from it, except where in one instance, he applied it in a liquid state, on a light soil. He had recently noticed a suggestion in the N. E. Farmer, in respect to sowing plaster on grass lands over the top dressing. He was inclined to believe it to be a good practice. He thought it would be beneficiaal in retaining the virtue of the manure, much of which would otherwise pass off in evaporation. It was on this principle that compost was found to be better than unmixed manure. If all the virtue of manure would find its way into the soil, it would be better than to compost it.

As to lucerne and sainfoin, they had been tried to some extent, in this neighborhood, but from what he knew of them, concluded they were not suitable for our climate. He had been desirous to know something of our natural grasses, and supposed there might be some species that would be worth cultivating.

He spoke of white weed as being very troublesome, and a growing evil, in the vicinity of Boston—it was the pest of grass lands. The only way to eradicate it was, by keeping the land in good heart, by heavy manuring, and thorough cultivation.

Mr Gleason, of Wayland, differed from Mr Gray in the time of sowing grass seed. It was his practice to sow early in April, and did not find much difficulty in having it take well, although he had been under the necessity of plowing up and sowing a second time. He was of opinion that the work could be done with as little expense in the spring, as after the crop had been taken off. When sown in the fall, the grass was apt to grow rusty the next season. He also differed from Mr Gray in relation to the value of the clover crop, and believed there was no grass so profitable. Horses would fatten faster when turned into a clover field, than on any other grass, and cows would give more milk when fed with it. It was more difficult to cure than other hay, but if properly managed, was worth more by the pound. Much depended upon curing. The soil on which he raised his clover was generally of a light character, where it succeeded much better than on that which was heavier. He would not recommend it to be sown on rich land. It would grow too rank. For a green crop to turn in, he considered clover to be the most enriching: the decay of the long roots would leave the ground light for other grasses.

In reply to the inquiry as to the quantity of grass seed he sowed to the acre, he said, 10 quarts of herds grass, 8 quarts of redtop, and as much clover as he could afford—say 8 or 10 pounds.

He had experimented by turning over an acre of worthless meadow in the summer, and sowing it with grass seed, and flowing it; had noticed that grass had done better when covered with water in winter, if not kept on too long, and provided the water was of sufficient depth to keep the ice from forming to the grass; for in such a case, the grass would be destroyed.

Mr Clark, of Sherburne, believed that on his farm, grass was the most valuable crop, but had not in late years raised any clover. He sows herdsgrass and redtop: clover comes in naturally. He thought hay grown on a warm rich soil, more palatable and nutritious than that grown on a cold soil. Clover was valuable for horses, but great care was requisite in drying it, to prevent its crumbling. It should be cut before fully ripe, partly dried in the swath and tumble, and then put into the barn with a little salt. He had been in the habit of sowing grass seed in the spring with grain; in very dry seasons, it has failed, or when the oats or barley have been very thick, and dry weather has succeeded the cutting, it has sometimes died. On moist, loamy soil, he has used plaster with good effect, particularly when sowed after taking off a crop of hay.

He had practiced top-dressing with good effect, and thought a weak composted manure might be more beneficial than strong manure alone. The idea of sowing plaster upon a top-dressing, he thought a good one.

Mr Kimball, of Needham, detailed some experiments he had made in raising grasses. He subdued two acres of rough, stony, whortleberry pasture, and brought it into good grass—turning it over in the fall, giving it a good top-dressing, and sowing it with herds-grass, redtop, and a little clover. The second year he cut five tons of hay, which brought him $100. He continued to give a top-dressing annually, and in four years he cut from this piece 16 tons of hay. On a piece of wet meadow land, he had applied sand. He turned it over, applied a top-dressing, harrowed and rolled it, sowed in the fall herdsgrass and redtop, top-dressed it in the spring, and it produced 2 tons to the acre. On another piece of meadow, a part of it he covered with sand, the other not. The whole was plowed and top-dressed as before. The part covered with sand produced a good crop the next year, while the part that had no sand, was much inferior. From these and similar experiments, he was satisfied that some of our poorest meadow lands might be made to yield large crops by carting on sand, and draining sufficiently.

Mr Page, of New Bedford, said there was a difference of opinion in relation to the time of sowing grass seed, but for himself, he had succeeded well in sowing in the spring. He used at the rate of 1-2 bushel of herdsgrass, and 1-2 bushel each of redtop and fine-top, or Rhode Island grass, to the acre. He was of opinion that autumn was preferable to spring for top-dressing land. He had used a compost made with fish and loam, at the rate of 25 to 30 tons to the acre, on one portion of a field; on the other, guano, at the rate of 300 lbs. to the acre, mixed with three bushels of plaster. The grass on that part where the fish compost was applied, started first, but when mowed, there was but very little difference in the two portions of the field. This was on rather dry ground. Where guano had been applied on moist land, very little advantage was apparent. White weed had been very troublesome to him, but his experience confirmed the views of Mr Gray. He had a field which 10 years ago abounded with this noxious weed, while a farm adjoining was free from it. In the course of time this farm was neglected, and the white weed came in. His own farm was more highly cultivated, and after a while the white weed disappeared.

Mr Kimball remarked that in Brookline and Brighton, through which he frequently passed, cultivation was carried to the highest extent, yet the white weed appeared to him to be on the increase.

The Editor of this paper remarked that he resided in Brighton, and that on the farm which he occupied, portions were rough and difficult to plow, and had received but little attention; here the white weed was abundant; but where it was well cultivated, there was comparatively none—and he believed that this would apply to grass lands in the town generally.

Mr Stevens, of Rehoboth, undertook to reconcile the statements of Messrs. Gray and Gleason, as to the comparative value of herdsgrass and clover. He thought both were right, and it depended entirely upon the character of the soil, which was most profitable to cultivate. For high, poor land, clover was best; and for rich, moist lands, herdsgrass was best. He thought fine-top had better be left out entirely on rich lands. It bound out other grasses, and left the ground with a heavy sward, and fit only for pasture. He prefers Western clover, as it blossoms all at once, and does not lodge: he puts on 15 lbs to the acre.

Mr Perry, of Dover, stated that he had sometimes plowed in the stubble where oats were raised, and sowed grass seed, but had not been so successful as when he had sowed it in the spring.

Mr Merriam, of Boston, related a successful experiment in raising grass upon a very soft peat bog, after reclaiming it by ditching and carting on gravel or sand from the surrounding hills. The quantity of land was about four acres: the labor (performed in winter, when his team would not have been otherwise employed,) was done at the expense of 36 dollars. He afterwards applied $10 worth of manure: it was seeded down to grass two years ago, and last year his crop of hay was sufficient to pay all expenses incurred in the improvement.

Mr Buckminster, editor of the Ploughman, said he should be glad to have information from farmers relative to Blue-joint and Fowl-meadow grass—whether the latter, which is almost equal to redtop, cannot be introdnced into all our brook meadows?—whether early cutting is not the cause of this richest of the wild grasses running out so soon?—for the land must often be new seeded, or this grass declines.

Subject for discussion at the next meeting—Cultivation of the Small Grains.

☞Part V. of Colman's European Agriculture is published. Notice of it in our next.

THERMOMETRICAL.

Reported for the New England Farmer.

Range of the Thermometer at the Garden of the proprietor of the New England Farmer, Brighton, Mass in a shaded Northerly exposure, to the week ending Feb. 2.

Feb. 1846.	7,A.M.	12, M.	5,P.M.	Wind.
Monday, 26	33	43	35	S.
Tuesday, 27	27	30	21	N.
Wednesday, 28	17	34	33	N.
Thursday, 29	16	28	26	N. W.
Friday, 30	33	46	47	S. E.
Saturday, 31	46	47	27	E.
Sunday, 1	12	15	16	N.

BRIGHTON MARKET.—Monday, Feb. 2, 1846.

Reported for the N. E. Farmer.

At market 570 Beef Cattle, 2000 Sheep, and 270 Swine. 250 Sheep unsold.

Prices.—*Beef Cattle.*—We quote to correspond with last week; Extra $5,75. First quality $5,25 a $5,50. Second quality $4,75 a 5,25. Third quality $4,00 a 4,50.

Sheep.—Dull. Weathers, $3, $3,75, $4 and $4,50. A few ordinary Sheep $2 and $2,25.

Swine.—A few small lots Barrows 5 1-2. At retail 5 and 6. No sales to peddle.

WHOLESALE PRICES CURRENT.

Corrected with great care, weekly.

SEEDS. Herds Grass, $0 00 a 2 50 per bushel. Red Top 00 to 60 cents. Clover—Northern, 11 to 11½c.—Southern, 10 a 11c. Flax Seed. $1 50 per bushel. Lucerne, 33 c. per lb. Canary Seed, $2 25 a 2 50 per bushel. Millet, 1 75 to 2 00.

GRAIN. The Grain market has been very quiet during the past week, with no sales of consequence, the demand confined to the actual wants of the trade.

Corn—Northern, new, bushel 72 a 73—Southern, round yellow, 00 a 00—Southern flat yellow, 67 a 68—do. do. white 65 a 66—do New Orleans, 00 a 00—Barley 00 a 00—Rye, Northern, 82 a 83—do. Southern, 00 a 00—Oats Southern, 40 a 43—Northern do. 44 to 45—Beans, per bushel 1 37 a 1 50.—Shorts, per double bush. 50 a 55—Bran, 00 a 40.

FLOUR. The market, for the most part of the week, has been very languid, and prices have still a downward tendency.

Baltimore, Howard Street, 4 mos. cr. new, $5 50 a 5 62—do. wharf, $5 37 a 5 50—do. free of garlic, $0 00 a 0 00—Philadelphia do. 4 mos. $5 50 a 0 00 — Fredericksburg, low P'd new $0 00 a 5 37—Alexandria, wharf, 5 37 a 5 50—Georgetown, $5 62 a 0 00—Extra do. 0 00 a 0 00—Richmond Canal, $5 50 a 0 00—do. City, $0 00 a 0 00—Petersburgh, City, $0 00 a 0 00—do. Country $0 00 a 0 00—Genesee, common, cash, $5 62 a 0 00— do fancy brands, $5 75 a 6 00—Ohio via Canal, $5 37 a 0 00—do do New Orleans, cash $0 00 a 0 00. Rye, $0 00 a 5 00—Indian Meal in bbls. $4 12 a 4 25.

PROVISIONS. The market during the past week has presented a few movements of any importance.

Beef—Mess 4 mo. new bbl. $8 75 a 9 25—Navy—$7 75 a 8 25.—No. 1, $0 00 a 0 00—do Prime $5 75 a 6 00—Pork—Extra clear 4 mo. bbl. $15 00 a 00 00—do Clear $14 00 a 14 50 do. Mess, $13 00 a 13 75—do Prime $10 00 a 11 00—do Mess from other States,— a — —do Prime do do $0 00 a 0 00 do. Cargo do. 0 00 a 0 00 —Clear do do $00 00 a 00 00—Butter, ship'ng, 12 a 14—do store. uninspected, 13 a 15—do dairy, 19 cts. a 20—Lard, No. 1, Boston ins. 8¼ a 8½—do South and Western, 8 a 8½— Hams, Boston, 9 a 9½—Southern and Western, 0 a 0—Cheese, Ship'g and 4 meal 6 a 8—do new milk, 7½ a 0.

WOOL. Duty. The value whereof at the place of exportation shall not exceed 7 cts. per pound, 5 per cent. ad. val. All whereof the value exceeds 7 cts. per pound, 40 per ct. ad. val. and 3 cts. per pound.

The sales of domestic Wool, for the past week, have been light. Prices are without much change.

Prime or Saxony Fleeces, washed, lb. 40 a 42 c.—American full blood, do 37 a 38—Do. 3-4 do 32 a 33—Do. 1-2 do 30 a 31—1-4 and common do 27 a 29 — Smyrna Sheep, washed, 18 a 20— Do. unwashed, 10 a 14 — Bengasi do 6 a 12—Saxony, clean, 00—Buenos Ayres unpicked, 7 a 10—do. do. picked, 10 a 13—Superfine Northern pulled lamb 33 a 36—No. 1 do. do. do. 27 a 30—No. 2 do do do 18 a 20—No. 3 do do do 14 a 16.

HOPS. Duty 20 per cent.

The transactions have been for small lots, to consumers, at 25c for 1st sort, and at the immediate close, 29 bales sold at 25½c. per lb.

1st sort Mass. 1844, lb. 25 a 00 ; 2d do 22 a 23.

HAY, 20 to 21 per ton—Eastern Screwed $17 to 18.

EGGS, 15 to 18.

SUPERB VARIETIES OF FLOWER SEEDS.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. *Seedsmen and Florists*, No. 51 and 52 North Market street, (up stairs) have now received a full supply of fresh *FLOWER SEEDS* from the most celebrated Florists of Europe, from their own garden in Brighton and from other sources, of the most select varieties—ever offered in this country. Special attention has been given by the subscribers in long practice, in improving the numerous varieties of hardy Flowers, which have so long been the object of their cultivation, and they feel assured that the seeds saved by themselves, cannot be surpassed by any other growers in the country.

Among some of the choice seeds are the following, viz:

Extra fine Verbena seeds, raised by an amateur in this country, from a bed of seedling, of 40 different varieties of every color and shade, price per package,	25
Extra fine Double Picotee and Carnation Pink seed, saved from a bed of 50 fine double varieties, (Breck & Co's. best,)	25
Extra Double Carnation seed from fine named Florists Flowers (imported,)	25
Extra double Picotee Pink seed from fine named double Flowers (imported)	25
Fine Carnation and Picotee Pink seed,	12½
Extra Double Florists Pink seed, from choice named Flowers (imported)	25
Double Chinese Imperial Pink seed, raised in this country from a bed of 50 or more fine varieties,	12½
Phlox Drummondii, mixed colors, embracing scarlet, crimson, purple, rose, pink, and variegated varieties,	12½
Calceolarias, mixed varieties, from fine named sorts,	25
Pansy seed, from a collection of named sorts,	25
Geraniums, from a great variety of fine named sorts,	25
Petunia seed, from a great variety of fine mixed, variegated and other sorts,	12½
Double Hollyhock seed, in boxes containing sixteen distinct varieties,	75
German Asters, of the most improved and splendid sorts, in boxes of 12 beautiful varieties,	75
Annual and perennial Lupins, in boxes, containing 16 distinct species and varieties, many of them most superb,	75
Goodetias and Œnotherns in boxes, 10 best varieties and species,	50
Russian and other ten week stock, 20 distinct varieties,	1,00
Ditto 10 ditto ditto	50
A collection of 20 best varieties of Annual Flower seeds,	1,00
Ditto 40 varieties of Annual and Perennial Flower seeds,	2,00
Boxes containing a choice collection of 100 varieties of Annual and Perennial Flower seeds,	4,00
Polyanthus seed from fine named sorts, per package,	25
Auricula ditto	25
Didiscus cœrulea,	12½
Brachycome Iberideifolia,	25
Mimulus—8 varieties,	75
Do. single paper,	12½
Double Balsams, 10 superb varieties,	62½
Four varieties fine Candytuft,	25
Six " sweet Peas,	37½
Four " wall Flower,	25
Four " Schizanthus,	25

Also, other fine varieties, too numerous to mention, embracing a rare collection of more than 400 varieties. Catalogues may be had on application.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, Feb. 2.

Guano! Guano!

Just received and for sale in lots to suit purchasers, 20 tons African and South American Guano, of superior quality, the best ever brought into this market. The African, which is part of the cargo of the brig Samos was analyzed by one of the first chemists of this country, and pronounced to be of the first quality; it has been fairly tested by many of the farmers and gardeners in the vicinity of Boston, and has fully equalled their highest expectations. We can fully recommend the South American, which has also been carefully analyzed, and found to be a splendid article, and very superior, being free from stones and hard substances. For sale by the ton, bbl. or bag. Orders addressed to JOSEPH BRECK & CO., 51 and 52 North Market street, will be promptly attended to.

Boston, March 25, 1845.

FOR SALE,

A *FARM* in Westboro', near the depot of the Boston and Worcester Rail Road, containing about twentyfive acres, well divided. Being the estate occupied by the late Nathan Fisher, Esq., deceased. If not sold previous to March 10th, the same will be rented. Refer to George Denny, Esq., Boston, Jabez G. Fisher, Esq. near the premises, or of the subscriber. NATHANIEL FISHER.

Westboro', Jan. 26, 1846. 3wis.

MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM EAGLE PLOWS.

The subscribers have for sale at their extensive Agricultural Warehouse, No. 51 & 52 N. Market street, *MARTIN'S MASSACHUSETTS PREMIUM IMPROVED EAGLE PLOWS.*

Mr. Martin's Plows combine new and important improvements adapting them to the different qualities of soil and the various modes and systems of culture. His Eagle Plows, as improved, are much longer, the mouldboard, landside and point, or share, all extended without any addition to the width or heel in its work; thus adapting this Plow to the more perfect turning under of the greensward, and inverting of the furrow-slice, so desirable in greensward plowing. The principle of these Plows is such, from where the furrow-slice is received upon the mouldboard to where it leaves it, that it enables the Plow to take up the furrow-slice with the greatest possible ease, bearing equally and lightly over the whole surface of the mouldboard, turning it over with the least possible bending or twisting, and preserving it flat, smooth and unbroken, laying the furrow-slices closely and compactly side by side, and creating but slight friction upon the face of the mouldboard in passing through the soil. Thus the Plow requires but very little power of draft beyond what is necessary to cut out the furrow-slice.

In testing the quality of Plows, the power by which it is moved, the ease with which it is handled, and the manner in which it completes the work, are three important points, all of which are wisely, accurately and judiciously preserved in these improved Plows.

The character of these Plows for ease of draft and management, and the excellence of their work, though well established in the minds of the farming community, were most fully and satisfactorily exhibited to the public at the grand trial of Plows by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, at Worcester, October 9th, 1844, whose able and impartial committee awarded the highest premium of $50 to B. Martin, for the best Plow, for doing the best work with the least draft, in a trial open to the whole Union—this Plow running in its natural course, and keeping its true position, without any effort of the plowman, and turning a furrow 12 inches wide and 6 inches deep, with a much less draft than any other Plow on the ground.

These Plows, as improved, are considered to be nearest to perfection of any implements of the kind in this country, as well in respect to material and workmanship, as in form of construction.

At the late Cattle-Show and Plowing-Match of the Worcester County Agricultural Society, in the heart of that most valuable agricultural county, B. Martin's Plow received the highest and most enthusiastic commendation from intelligent and experienced practical farmers, who know and are the most competent judges.

His castings are of a superior kind, the workmanship not inferior to any other Plows in this country, and his timber being the very best of white oak; and every farmer knows that good timber in his Plows is of the utmost importance—all of which in fact renders B. Martin's Plow the very article every farmer wants. The high character of these Plows is abundantly sustained by a continued and extended patronage, which the manufacturer hopes by his efforts and exertions to retain. Being himself an experienced Plow-Maker, he will not spare any exertions in order to render his Plows a superior article.

Gentlemen are requested to call and examine these Plows before they purchase. JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

Boston, March 24.

CORN SHELLER.

A Corn sheller is one of the most convenient and labor saving implements that the practical farmer has in use. Various machines for this purpose have been invented. It can be used in all cases for large or small sized ears. It is very simple in its construction, and durable in its operation, and no way liable to get out of order; one man can work it togood advantage, though a man to turn, and a boy to feed it, works it much better than one alone. They are so light and portable, as to be easily removed from place to place, and one machine will serve for several families or even the inhabitants of a small town.

For sale at the Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52, North Market Street.

JOS. BRECK & CO.

FARMERS' ALMANACK FOR 1846.

For sale at the N. E. Farmer Office, Thomas's Almanac for 1846, by the hundred or dozen.

Boston, Nov. 4.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Capital Anecdote.—Gov. Chittenden—the first of the name who fillled the office of Chief Magistrate of Vermont—had two sons, named Martin and Truman. The first of these was deemed less brightly endowed by nature than the other, and a college education was given him to remedy the supposed deficiency. Truman, who never lacked in mother wit, was placed upon the farm. It chanced one time that the Governor had in his barn a calf, so little endowed with even animal instinct, as to be unable to draw sustenance from its mother's teats. Not all the efforts of the Governor and his help could make the creature suck. "Truman," said his father, "what shall we do with this foolish calf to learn him to suckle?" "I do n't know, really, father," replied the son, with the utmost gravity, "unless *you send him to college, with Martin.*"

Metrical Grammar.—An exchange gives the following for the benefit of juvenile readers:

1. Three little words we often see
   Are ARTICLES, *a, an,* and *the.*
2. A NOUN's the name of any thing,
   As *school,* or *garden, hoop,* or *swing.*
3. ADJECTIVES tell the kind of noun;
   As *great, small, pretty, white,* or *brown.*
4. Instead of nouns the PRONOUNS stand.
   John's head, *his* face, *my* arm, *your* hand.
5. VERBS tell of something being done;
   To *read, write, count, sing, jump,* or *run.*
6. How things are done, the ADVERBS tell:
   As *slowly, quickly, ill,* or *well.*
7. CONJUNCTIONS join the words together:
   As men *and* women, wind *or* weather.
8. The PREPOSITION stands before
   A noun—as *in* or *through* a door.
9. The INTERJECTION shows surprise;
   As *oh!* how pretty, *ah!* how wise.

The whole are called *nine Parts of Speech,*
Which Reading, Writing, Speaking teach.

The following lines were sent by a young lady to her lover, whose name was *Nott.* The nuptial *knot* was tied immediately after their receipt:

Why urge, dear sir, a bashful maid
To change her single lot,
When well you know I've often said
In truth, I love you, Nott.

For all your pains I do, Nott, care,
And trust me on my life,
Though you had millions, I declare
I would, Nott, be your wife.

"Did you take that note to Mr ——, Ephraim?" said a gentleman to his servant, who had but recently emerged from the bush.

"Ees, sir."

"And how was he?"

"Why, he looked hearty, but he's wery blind—wery."

"Blind! what do you mean?"

"Why," replied Bumpkin, "while I wor in the room, he axed me where my hat wor, and it wor on my head all the time."

Bad men have always the lowest opinion of women. No man whose heart is right, will ever speak reproachfully of the female sex.

"James," said the schoolmarm, "if you take three from five, how many will remain?"

"I do n't know, marm," said the urchin, biting thumb-nail.

"Do n't know! If five birds were sitting on a tree and a naughty boy should fire a gun and kill three, how many would there be left?"

"None," was the prompt reply.

"Why yes, there would be *some* left."

"No there wouldn't, please marm, *cause the others would fly away.*"

"Mrs Grimes, mother wants to know if you 'll lend her your tub." "Can 't do it; all the hoops are off; besides, I never had one; I wash in a barrel." This reminds us of the Dutchman: "I comes home, and fints my vife vide open ant te toor fasht ashleep; I fints my neighbor's poonkins proke into my hog patch, and ven I try to catch em, dey run for der tyvel, as if de fence vas behint em."

An itinerant preacher, when discoursing on the goodness of Providence, said, "Even death itself, my brethren, which, for our many offences, we have merited, Providence has kindly placed at the end of our lives; for oh! what would life be worth were death at the beginning?"

Direct Answer.—"Good evening, Mr Blythe, will you take some supper with us?" "Thank you, sir—I've been up to 'Squire Sikes's, sir—'Squire Sikes was very glad to see me, sir—'Squire Sikes and I were always very good friends, sir—I always thought a good deal of 'Squire Sikes, sir—yes, sir—I thank you, sir—I do n't care if I do, sir."

"Neighbor Twist, you told me when I paid Tom Doolittle in advance, on his promising to work for me in haying time, that I should find him *as good as his word.*" "That's true—for I always knew his *word was good for nothing.*"

HOWARD'S PREMIUM SUBSOIL PLOWS.

The subsoil Plow is unquestionably the most importan agricultural implement of modern invention. It is considered by the best informed practical farmers of Great Britain and our own country, as an indispensable article in the most profitable husbandry. Says that eminently skilful and intelligent agriculturist, Mr. Phinney, of Lexington: "such is the estimate in which I hold this important implement, that I should consider it a great piece of improvidence to put in a crop without first subsoiling the ground." The subsoil Plows manufactured by Mr. Howard, are of two sizes—the smaller obtained the highest premium offered by the State Agricultural Society at its late exhibition at Worcester. The committee to award the premium on Subsoil Plows, in their report say:—"The committee were pleased with the neatness and firmness of structure of these Plows—characteristics which have distinguished all the Plows of Mr. Howard that have come within their observation. *Utility* and not *show,* are their peculiar features. * * They were astonished to find with what ease and perfection the hard pan could be stirred, and broken to the depth and width of 8 or 9 inches, for such was the operation of the medium size Plows, with a power not exceeding that ordinarily required for moving a surface Plow at the same depth—and they found the Plow might be guided with less labor ahd fatigue than the surface Plow. * * They confidently recommend the subsoil Plow to the attention of the farmers of the Commonwealth."

The improvement in the length of the handles of Mr. Howard's Plows, suggested by the committee, has been made—and the undersigned are now prepared to furnish these invaluable implements wholesale and retail.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO.

N. E. Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store, 51 & 52, North Market Street, Boston.

GRINDSTONES ON FRICTION ROLLERS.

Grindstones of different sizes hung on friction rollers and moved with a foot treader, are found to be a great improvement on the old mode of hanging grindstones. Stones hung in this manner are becoming daily more in use and wherever used, give universal satisfaction. The rollers can be attached to stones hung in the common way. For sale by J. BRECK & Co. No. 51 North Market street.

GREEN'S PATENT STRAW CUTTER.

JOSEPH BRECK & CO. at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 and 52 North Market Street, have for sale, Green's Patent Straw, Hay and Stalk Cutter, operating on a mechanical principle not before applied to any implement for this purpose. The most prominent effects of this application, and some of the consequent peculiarities of the machine are:

1. So great a reduction of the quantum of power requisite to use it, that the strength of a half grown boy is sufficient to work it efficiently.
2. With even this moderate power, it easily cuts two bushels a minute, which is full twice as fast as has been claimed by any other machine even when worked by horse or steam power.
3. The knives, owing to the peculiar manner in which they cut, require sharpening less often than those of any other straw cutter.
4. The machine is simple in its construction, made and put together very strongly. It is therefore not so liable as the complicated machines in general use to get out of order.

HOWARD'S IMPROVED EASY DRAUGHT PLOUGH.

Great improvements have been made the past year in the form and workmanship of these Ploughs; the mould board has been so formed as to *lay the furrow completely over, turning in every particle of grass or stubble, and leaving the ground in the best possible manner.* The length of the mould board has been very much increased, so that the Plough works with the greatest ease, both with respect to the holding and the team. The Committee at the late trial of Ploughs at Worcester, say,

"Should our opinion be asked as to which of the Ploughs we should prefer for use on a farm, we might perhaps say to the inquirer, if your land is mostly light and easy to work, try Prouty & Mears, but if your *land is heavy, hard orrocky,* BEGIN WITH MR. HOWARD'S."

At the above mentioned trial the Howard Plough *did more work, with the same power of team, than any other plough exhibited.* No other turned more than twentyseven and one half inches, to the 112 lbs. draught, while the *Howard Plough turned twentynine and one half inches, to the same power of team!* All acknowledge that Howard's Ploughs are much the strongest and most substantially made.

There has been quite an improvement made on the shoe, or land side of this Plough, which can be renewed without having to furnish a new landside; this shoe likewise secures the mould board and landside together, and strengthens the Plough very much.

The price of the Ploughs is from $6 to $15. A Plough sufficient for breaking up with four cattle, will cost about $10 50, and with cutter $1, with wheel and cutter, $2 50 extra.

The above Ploughs are for sale, wholesale and retail, at the New England Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store Nos. 51 & 52 North Market Street, by

JOSEPH BRECK & CO

NEW ENGLAND FARMER,

A WEEKLY PAPER.

Terms, $2 per year *in advance,* or $2 50 if not paid within sixty days.

Remittances, *not exceeding ten dollars,* at any *one time,* may be made as follows:—A subscriber owes us two or eight dollars, which he wishes to remit us. He will pay this amount to the Post Master *in his own town,* and take his *receipt* for it, as money paid him on *our* account. He will then send that *receipt,* enclosed in a letter, *to us.* We pass it to the Post Master in Boston, and get the money for it. This arrangement does away with nearly the whole risk of making remittance, and puts every subscriber in possession of "suitable funds" for that purpose.

TUTTLE AND DENNETT, PRINTERS
21 SCHOOL STREET.